

Indiana House of Representatives

News and Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

FEBRUARY 9, 2005

BISCHOFF CO-AUTHORS TENT FIRE CODE LEGISLATION

INDIANAPOLIS – State Rep. Bob Bischoff (D-Lawrenceburg) recently joined State Rep. William Ruppel (R-North Manchester) to co-author legislation that would temporarily hold back controversial fire code regulations that apply to festival tents.

At the beginning of the year, stricter fire code rules were put in place for festival tents. Under the new rules, every tent or canopy booth must have sides that are certified as flame-resistant. The costs needed to improve existing tents or buy new ones may result in festivals being cancelled or losing vendors who do not have the means to comply with the fire code rules.

House Bill 1594 would temporarily block the more controversial rules to allow time for negotiating the codes.

"The new rules for tents could put festivals out of business and social gatherings like church picnics at risk for breaking state fire codes," said Bischoff. "While we obviously want rules that keep the public safe, I think we can come to an agreement where the public is protected from hazardous fire situations but can still enjoy the festivals and other social functions that take place in the community."

The bill has been sent to the House Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security for consideration. If passed into law, the negotiated rules would go into effect before the 2006 festival season.